



**Pacific Northwest Region
Malheur National Forest**
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News Release

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Grant County Resident Receives National Recognition

JOHN DAY, OR –Local Independent Consultant, Irene Jerome was recently awarded the National Wildfire Mitigation Innovation Award by the National Association of State Foresters which will be presented at a national conference this coming March in Reno, Nevada.

Established in 2014, in response to an overwhelming number of great wildfire mitigation program efforts across the nation, the Wildfire Mitigation Awards are the highest national honor one can receive for outstanding work and significant program impact in wildfire preparedness and mitigation.

Ms. Jerome was hired by Grant County in early 2011 to maintain the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP). She is being recognized for her work above and beyond the CWPP project to raise awareness and connect interested parties throughout the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in Grant County. Her most recent success is the creation of the first Firewise Community in Eastern Oregon, along Pine Creek in John Day, Ore.

Grant County Commissioners, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Malheur National Forest all worked together to nominate Ms. Jerome for the national award. “Like many rural areas nationwide, there are parts of Grant County that have been getting more developed outside of traditional town boundaries. Irene has given tremendous energy to raising awareness and helping our residence and responders work together to mitigate the risks of living in the WUI” stated Malheur Fire Staff Officer, Roy Walker.

The Wildfire Mitigation Awards are jointly sponsored by the National Associations of State Foresters (NASF), the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the USDA Forest Service.

These awards are designed to recognize outstanding service in wildfire preparedness and safety across a broad spectrum of activities and among a variety of individuals and organizations. By honoring their achievements, the award sponsors also seek to increase public recognition and awareness of the value of wildfire mitigation efforts.

Plans to celebrate Ms. Jerome’s recognition in the local community will be announced at a later date.

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